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Page 32: Photo courtesy of TJB Homes Remodeling, **Page 38:** Photo courtesy of Schneiderman's Furniture, **Page 28:** Photo by Steve Lenius, **Page 44:** Photo by Randy Stern.

ON THE COVER
With summer on the horizon, there are plenty of lovely furniture trends that will help revitalize your home. Photo courtesy of Schneiderman's Furniture

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FROM THE EDITOR | BY CHRIS TARBOX

The Sum(mer) Of All Parts

Well, folks, we've made it. In spite of everything Mother Nature lobbed at us in the last few months—I'm looking at you, Awful, No-Good, Record-Breaking Blizzard—we've finally arrived at the home stretch to the summer season. I'm not complaining! Except for when we have record-breaking blizzards. Not cool, Minnesota. Not cool.

And now that the sun is shining and the temperatures are rising, it's high time to escape hibernation and check out all the latest season trends for our homes. Looking to renovate your kitchen? Want to add a patio to the backyard? In the mood for a basketball court? Want to update your furnishings?

Never fear! The 2018 Summer Home & Garden issue to the rescue! In this issue, we take a look at the wondrous custom design work offered by TJB Homes Remodeling for the whole household, and we learn about new furniture trends for the season by way of Schneiderman's Furniture.

We also take a look at the services offered by GLBT senior advocacy group Training To Serve, as well as take a trip to St. Paul's culinary gem Hodges Bend, which, by the way, boasts immaculate crab cakes. Sign me up.

So break out the parasols and deck chairs: Summer's a-coming!

CORRECTION: In Issue 598, Lavender incorrectly named the owner of Sassy Lassy Trivia & Events. The correct owner is Julie DuRose. The online version has been corrected to reflect the changes. Lavender regrets the error. ■

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A WORD IN EDGEWISE | BY E.B. BOATNER

Ready, Set—Go!

A childhood friend and I chat weekly. At 12, we were press-ganged into Miss Mary Alice's dance class, then later were accepted into the same tiny prep school class of 20. Today, our conversations often concern our health—or non-health.

We noted the recent publication of Barbara *Ehrenreich's Natural Causes: An Epidemic of Wellness, the Certainty of Dying, and Killing Ourselves to Live Longer.* Ehrenreich, author of Nickel and Dimed, takes on the current determination to control and extend one's length of life which, she asserts, inevitably fails.

Ehrenreich derides Americans' endless exercise regimens, calibrating steps, reps, and every ingested morsel, the frantic competition with one's colleagues for superior fitness and greater longevity. She then goes cellular.

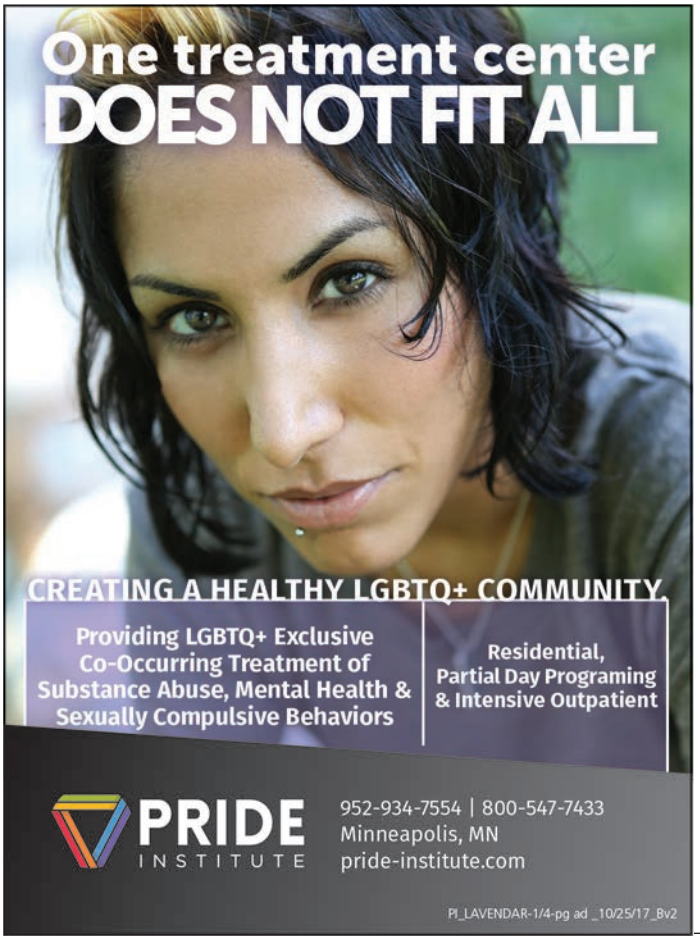
As the holder of a PhD in cellular immunology, Ehrenreich was astounded to find that our watchdog macrophage cells, supposedly our inner guardians, can turn rogue, using self-agency to stimulate tumor cell growth instead of destruction.

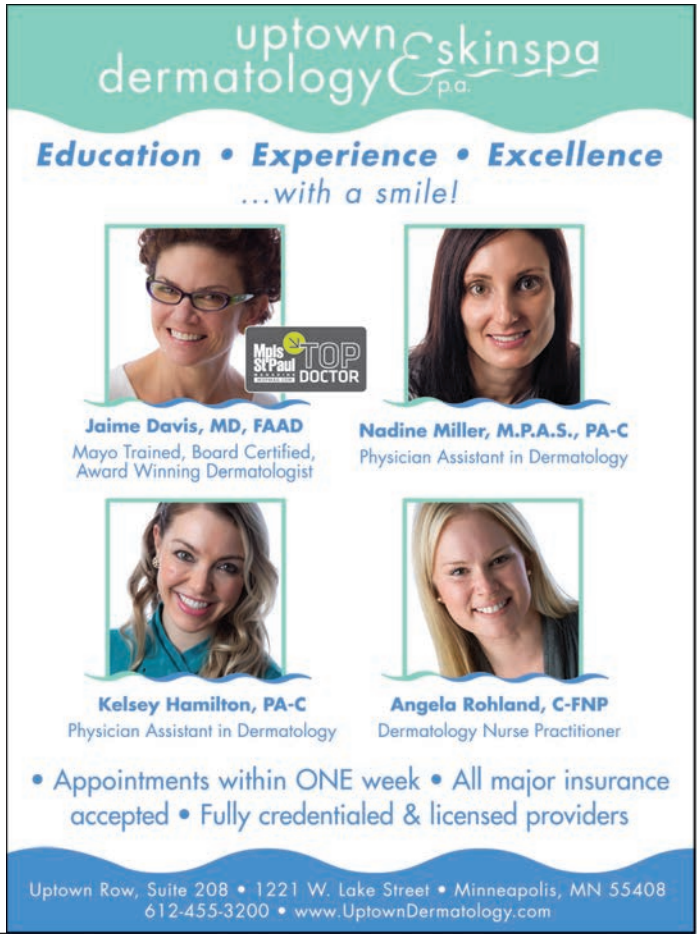
There's much to argue about those macrophages, but one topic my friend and I also discuss is, when is enough *enough*? Ehrenreich writes that she decided, understanding "that I was going against the grain for my particular demographic," to forego many preventative medical procedures, including annual exams and cancer screenings. "I gradually realized," she concludes, "that I was *old enough to die*."

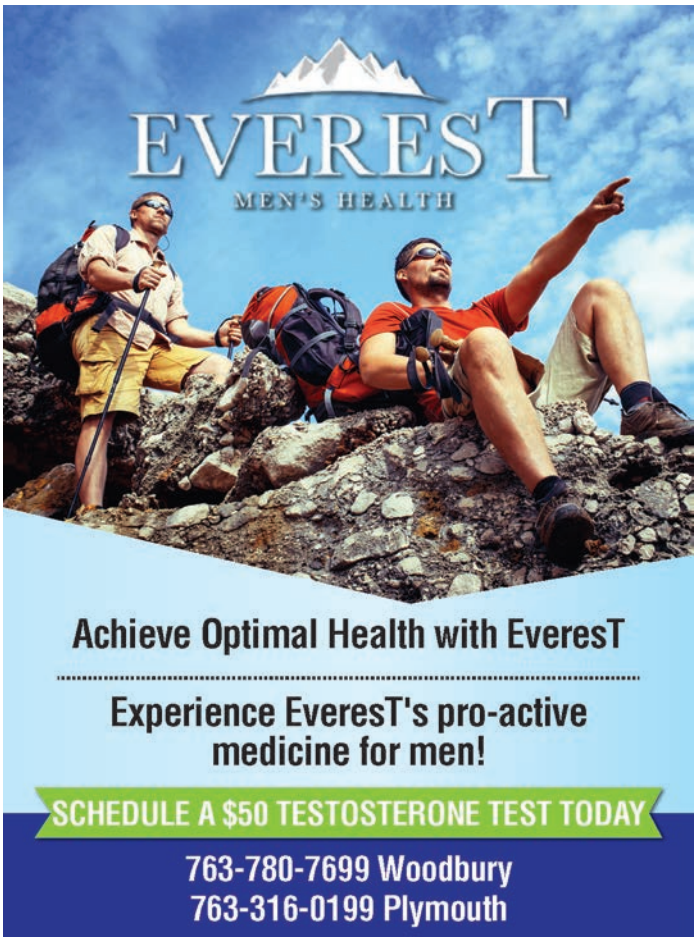
Not that she plans to go immediately; Ehrenreich works out regularly at the gym, takes walks, eats well and enjoys life: author or co-author of over a dozen books, she's no slouch or slacker. But, as she points out, if the deceased is 70-plus, "natural causes" will appear in the obit; not "tragic."

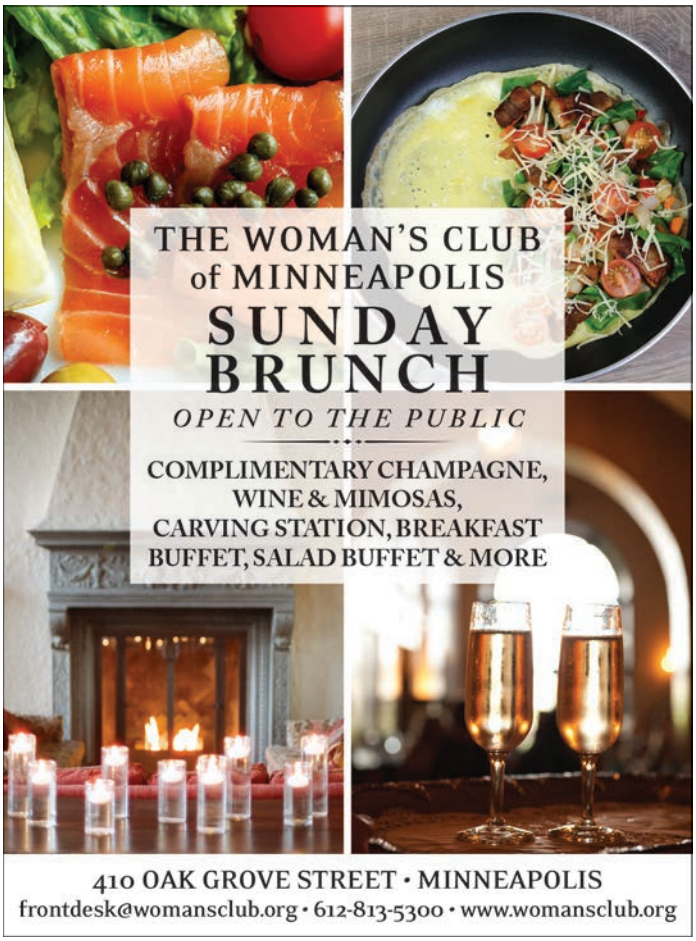
My friend and I decided some time back that we no longer desire to prolong life at any cost. I elect to undergo more preventative tests than she does, but neither of us desire to be tethered and cabled to a non-existence. I've written that into my medical directive.

Our exit strategy chats are freeing, not morbid, and choosing comfort care over painful invasive procedures offers some measure of control. It was refreshing to see Barbara Bush publicly announce her similar decision recently. It's a choice each one should make for him or herself, and a choice that should be honored by those closest to the chooser. ■









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APRIL 5, 2018

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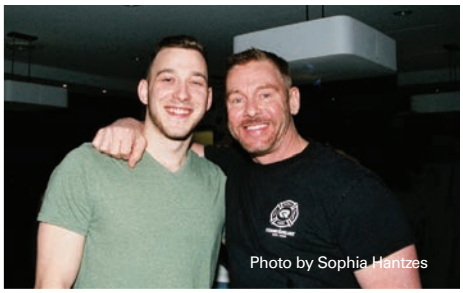
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A DAY in the Life

BY CHRIS TARBOX

DENISE 'SEVEN' BAILEY

Name: Denise 'Seven' Bailey

Age: 36

Where did you grow up? Winona, MN

Where do you live? Minneapolis, MN

Who do you live with? My wife, roommate, two bunnies, cat, dog, and our turtle.

What is your occupation? Senior welding instructor, certified welding inspector, and welder/fabricator.

When did you come out? When I was 16.

How'd that go? I realized I was really gay after seeing a preview for the Best Kiss on the MTV Movie Awards. It was for the movie *Bound*. I immediately ran out to rent it and watched it on a constant loop for the next few months. Soon after, Ellen came out and I thought it was about time I do the same. Coming out to my friends was easy because they, too, had watched the magic that was *Bound*. My mom, on the other hand, wasn't overcome with joy, she told me to hold off on telling my stepdad. The beautiful thing is, my stepdad had the best reaction ever after I told him that I just love people for people. He said, "I think that's a great way to go about life." Growing up as one of the only black kids in town, I was often stared at, harassed, and talked about. By the time I was a teenager, I knew exactly who I was and being gay is something I couldn't and wouldn't hide.

When do you wake up? 6 a.m.

Phone alarm or old school alarm? Phone; I check it twice before I go to bed every night. My wife lovingly makes fun of this routine.

What's the first thing you do in the morning? After I turn off the alarm? Immediately brush my teeth.

Breakfast? ALWAYS! Oatmeal with flax, hemp hearts, chia, and two scoops of my protein powder.

Coffee? Two cups, one while I make breakfast and one for the road.

Cream or no? Soy or coconut milk.

How do you spend your commute? My commute is about five minutes; paying attention to the road as people aren't always that sharp first thing in the morning.

If your job were like a yearbook, what would you be voted? Most Resilient.

What inspires you? #Blackgirlmagic

Do you eat your lunch while working or take a break? Depends on the day. I retract that, I'm constantly working through the day.

Is your work space tidy or a hot mess? TIDY! I feel like a cluttered space clutters the mind.

What's been your favorite job? Welding instructor. Every day I get to help people achieve their goals, manifest dreams, and share skills that will allow for them to provide for themselves for the rest of their lives.

Who are your heroes? It's 2018, my current SHEroes are: Janelle Monáe, Beyoncé, Michelle Obama, Andrea Jenkins, Marley Dias.

Favorite weeknight meal: Go out, take out, or cook in? So I love to cook, but on days that I need a break I go to my current obsession, Agriculture. The Agra Harvest Bowl with tofu is my jam.

Most embarrassing moment: Being called a racist word in a lunchroom full of a hundred kids and not knowing what it meant. I was only about seven years old at the time, instead of crying I yelled it back while all the other kids laughed at me. Later that week I was asked to write about a time that I was embarrassed and it was fresh in my mind. I kept the letter and hid it in my drawer at home where my mom found it and of course she read it. It must have broken her heart to know that I had gone through that. My mom's approach to explaining the meaning of the word was very direct, she had me look that word up in the dictionary and read it out loud. Even to this day, the impact of that experience still has so much weight to it.

On a usual weeknight, you are doing what? Cooking dinner, meal prepping, and hanging with my family.

Bedtime: 9:30 p.m.

Favorite weekend activity: Producing shows and throwing events with my wife, Sweetpea.

What are you most proud of and why? Finding equanimity within myself. Almost my whole life I had struggled to find calm in a world that is often chaotic. This past year, something shifted in my life. I found a beautiful balance within my mind that has allowed me to navigate the world with a new light and direction.

Words of wisdom to share: Falling down and scraping your knees teaches you to look where you are going. ■

Photo by Hubert Bonnet

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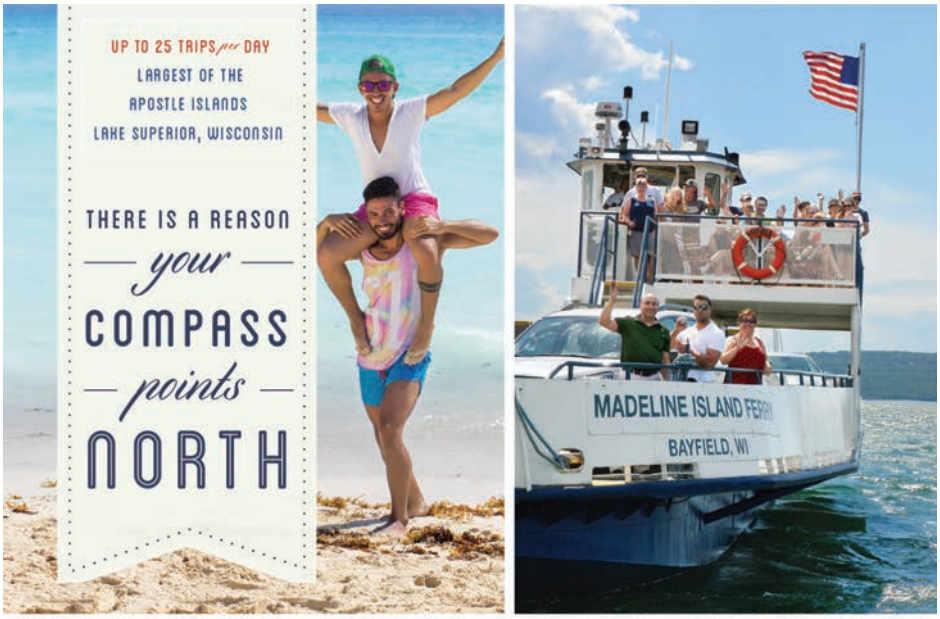

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GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER

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Katherine Hepburn gave what was arguably the best film performance by a lead actress of the entire 1960s in Stanley Kramer's *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*. She won the 1967 Oscar for the box office blockbuster, which was also nominated for eight total. William Rose's screenplay was closely adapted for stage in 2012 by Todd Kreidler.

The film was heralded by liberals as a triumph and by some civil rights purists as not. Gay black writer James Baldwin found it not credible. But in rebuttal, art follows its own inherent logic. To expect a work of art or literature to single-handedly rectify all historical wrongs can border on absurdity.

Moreover, *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* is as much an examination of gender as it is about race. When a black man and a younger white woman decide to marry, both sets of parents come undone. Rose/Kreidler are interested in how the women process the crisis, and Guthrie Theater director Timothy Bond, in as much the spirit of George Cukor as Kramer, apprehends that numinously.

At the Big G, all performances are extraordinarily their own, so there's no taller order than filling Hepburn's shoes. Yet Sally Wingert embodies the lead role of white mother/wife, Christina Drayton, with a lovely organic fluidity very unlike Hepburn. Better yet, in recent years some Wingert performances have fallen into mannerisms. But with *Guess Who's* she has transformed and is quintessentially '60s. Additionally, like Hepburn, she reveals Christina's liberal views as intrinsic, rather than pontificated.

Maeve Coleen Moynihan as daughter Joey is savvier about the world than Katherine Houghton's film portrayal. That said, Moynihan still evokes the era. She is incisive, mature, and likable without being overly sweet; something that Houghton, Hepburn's real-life niece, walked a tightrope with.

Greta Oglesby also has big shoes to fill as African-American mother, Mary Prentice, played exquisitely on film by Bea Richards. Nonetheless, Oglesby is an understated powerhouse who calls out both fathers on their narrowness. Isabel Sanford's feisty turn as the maid in the film is more fully drawn by Kreidler and played to saucy perfection by Regina Marie Williams. We are reminded that many African-Americans themselves disagree on interracial marriage.

Michelle Duffy is perfectly unsettling as the pert and passive-aggressive art gallery manager Hillary. Racism with a cheery personality. All the Guthrie men are excellent but not quite on a footing equal to the men in the film. Peter Thomson pushes the liberal self-righteousness a bit much as Monsignor Ryan.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

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800-838-3006
www.theatrecoupdetat.com

An Obie-winning urban apocalyptic fantasy is in revival by Theatre Coup d'Etat. Jose Rivera's *Marisol* calls for compassion for a society in deterioration. Director Ricardo Vazquez shares, "Theater for me is the opportunity for a room of people to share a story and watch humans grow, challenge one another, and change. Jose Rivera's work provides the launchpad for our imagination to play, organize, and generate new possibilities for the many problems we face in our world. The passion of his characters and the vibrant human themes he explores are as magical as they are profound. He is often called Tony Kushner on acid, but I much prefer to call Tony Kushner as the watered-down Jose Rivera."

The Metromaniacs. Photo by Bob Suh

THE METROMANIACS

Through May 20
Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave.
Minneapolis
612-333-3010
www.theatreintheround.org

Theater in the Round Players is presenting David Ives's version of an 18th century French farce by Alexis Piron. Director Kari Steinbach relates, "The creation of this play was, in part, a response to a scandal of Piron's time. All of Paris was captivated by the writings of the mysterious poet, Mademoiselle Malcrais de La Vigne, and perhaps no one was so enamored with her talent as the writer Voltaire, who loudly proclaimed her a literary genius and declared his love for her (as Damis does for Mademoiselle Meriadec in *The Metromaniacs*). It was later discovered that the poetess was actually a man disguising his real identity from the critics who had previously panned his poetry."

Thais. Photo by Suzy Gorman

THAIS

May 12-20
Ordway Center
345 Washington St., St. Paul
612-333-6669
www.mnopera.org

People are often unconscious of how erotic urges influence our conscious actions. For Minnesota Opera, Grammy-winning baritone Lucas Meacham plays a monk who tells himself that he truly wants to save the soul of Thais, a gorgeous courtesan played by celebrated soprano Kelly Kaduce (*The Shining*). The setting of the Jules Massenet classic is 4th-century Egypt. Artistic Director Dale Johnson observes that "*Thais* is an opera that is brimming with inspiration and originality. The sheer mastery of voice and orchestral forces required to produce the work make it worthy of our attention." ■

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LAVENDER LENS | PHOTOS BY SOPHIA HANTZES

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LINDSAY WHALEN NAMED HEAD COACH OF GOPHERS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

APRIL 13, 2018

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EAT THE MENU | BY BRADLEY TRAYNOR | PHOTOS BY HUBERT BONNET

Sitting at the bar at Hodges Bend makes you feel like you're at a glorious library of cocktails and coffee.

Hodges Bend

There's a little taste of Tulsa just off the Green Line along University Avenue in St. Paul, and it's a veritable choose-your-own-adventure of thoughtful food and drink. Whether you're looking for a laid-back happy hour with clever craft cocktails or a single cup of high-end coffee to sip over a good book, you're in luck. Hodges Bend offers up an array of eating and drinking possibilities.

Nestled at the foot of a new apartment complex in an ever-expanding transit corridor just east of Prospect Park, Hodges Bend comes courtesy of eclectic Oklahoma business guy Chip Gaberino. Through a series of fortunate events (that is, fortunate for us), Gaberino was convinced to bring his restaurant, bar and coffee concept to Minnesota.

Even luckier for me, this fortuitous new find is just across the street from my day job. A few weeks back, I stopped by after work with a couple friends to give Hodges Bend a happy hour test drive.

The cocktails may be craft and the coffee more complicated than your average cup, but the first feeling you're struck with when walking through the door is relaxed. Ever wary of pretense, I'm happy to report a complete lack of high-horsed hipsters; just an affable, talented staff eager to share their creativity and passion for food and drink.

There's quite literally something for everyone (and every mood) on the cocktail menu at Hodges. The menu is broken up into an assortment of signature Hodges cocktails and deep track classic cocktails, as well. Crowd favorites included Hodges' own Dutch Lover, a frisky mix of genever and amaro with the punch of pomegranate, lime and cardamom. On the classic side of things, the Saturn and Yokohama put smiles on faces.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

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Hodges Bend's gin-and-passion-fruit-infused Saturn cocktail is out of this world.

Hodges Bend boasts a fancy yet utterly relaxing ambiance and atmosphere.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

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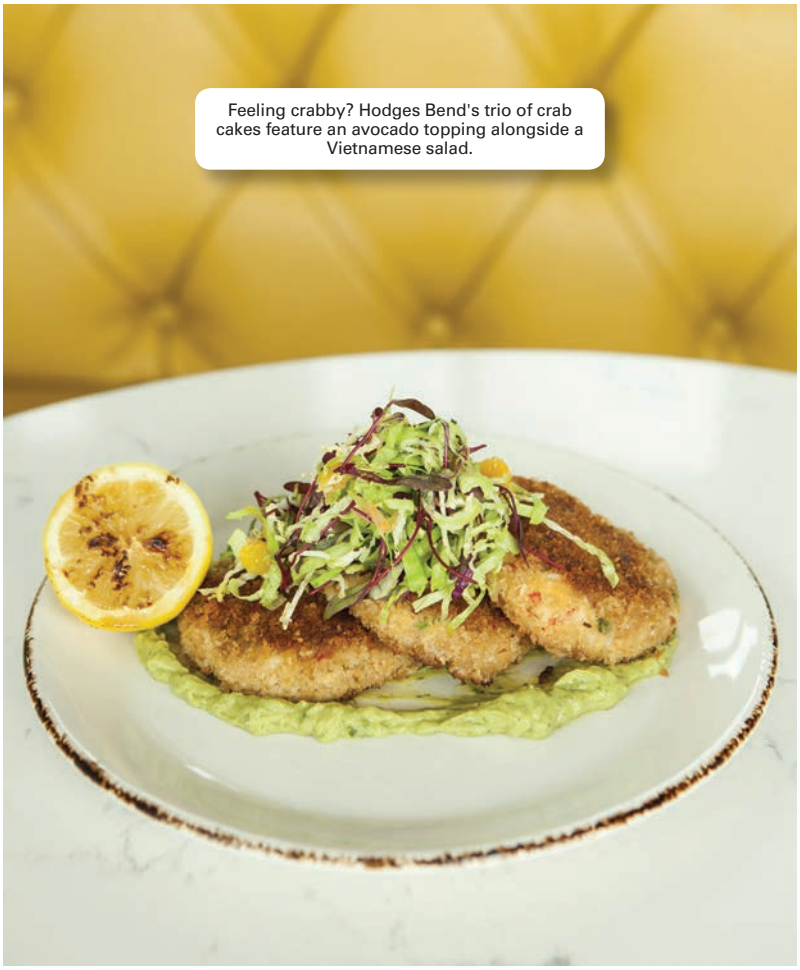
One of the tasty small plates offered at Hodges Bend are the Charred Brussels, accentuated by lime, cilantro, and queso fresco.

Hodges Bend offers a wide variety of coffee cocktails and mocktails.



Feeling crabby? Hodges Bend's trio of crab cakes feature an avocado topping alongside a Vietnamese salad.

As a mocktail enthusiast myself, I was beyond pleased to see an assortment of non-alcoholic options. Pay special attention to the signature coffee mocktails. At Hodges, coffee is king and you're not likely to see caffeinated combinations like this anywhere else in the Twin Cities. My personal favorite was the Coffee Rose, a puzzlingly delicious blend of crisp cold brew and velvety blackberry syrup.

No hour is truly happy without food and I was over the moon at the assortment of tasty treats Hodges had on offer. Chief among them, charred brussel sprouts. Everybody does brussel sprouts, but these tasty little cabbages were vibrant and fresh, dressed with chimichurri, lime, and dusted with rich and creamy queso fresco.

Another standout small plate, the warm kabocha squash, combines roasted squash with a rich, silky red curry vinaigrette and the light freshness of shaved daikon radish.

The clear winner of taste buds this particular day was the crab cake. Or, more accurately, crab cakes. Three of them, in fact. Crab cakes are typically a bland affair. Bready, sad little hockey pucks of disappointment. The crab cakes at Hodges Bend, however, sing with flavor. And crab. Citrus-dressed shaved brussel sprouts festoon three hearty crab cakes.

Based on our one fruitful afternoon foray, I look forward to future visits to sample, among other things, the much-celebrated burger and equally talked-about brunch. And we haven't even talked about the coffee.

Beyond a stunning menu, coffee offering, wine list and beer collection, Hodges Bend serves up exceptional service in a relaxed urban cubby that feels delightfully far away from the hustle and bustle just beyond its doors. ■

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LEATHER LIFE | BY STEVE LENIUS | PHOTO BY STEVE LENIUS

A Surprising MN Leather Pride Weekend

Two titles were awarded—and, surprisingly, one was not—at the 2018 Minnesota Leather Pride contest weekend. The contest was held Saturday evening, April 7, 2018 at LUSH.

Five contestants competed in three concurrent contests: Sir Zachariah BlackFyre competed for Minnesota Leather Sir; Boy Alex BlackFyre and Christopher Vadner competed for Minnesota Leatherboy; and Evie and Ms Rosie BlackFyre competed for the Ms Minnesota Leather Pride title. (Did you notice that three of the contestants share the name "BlackFyre"? They are all members of the same leather family.)

Among Minnesota's leather contests and titles, these three contests and titles are unique because they are owned and produced by the community, rather than sponsored by a bar or other business. These contests and titles are also distinctive nationally because, unlike many other contests, there are no gender or sexual preference requirements for contestants.

The weekend started with a Meet and Greet on Friday evening, April 6, at LUSH. This was followed by a cigar social presented by the Twin Cities Girls of Leather and the Atons of Minneapolis.

On Saturday morning, Kink U sessions on whips, parenting, and saline infusion were presented at eagleBolt Bar and The Saloon. At noon, a contestant roundtable discussion took place in the Fire Bar at The Saloon. The roundtable was a chance for the audience to get to know the contestants better by hearing them answer the types of questions usually asked in the contestants' private interviews with the judges.

Saturday evening's contest and show at LUSH began with a moment of silence for the loss of Sam Carlisle, who was instrumental in making Minnesota Leather Pride what it is today and whose memorial service had been held at The Cowles Center that afternoon. Then, after a blessing by the Ladies of the Lakes, Minnesota Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, the evening got underway.

The contest and show included many memorable moments and a few surprises. Among the fantasy performances, Rosie drew cheers (and her fantasy partner drew a few boos) as she topped someone wearing an orange-haired mask that made him look very much like the current occupant of the Oval Office. After Rosie's fantasy, emcee Ryan Brown quipped, "I think Stormy Daniels could probably learn a thing or two from our Miss Rosie."

Christopher Vadner, Minnesota Leatherboy 2018, and Evie, Ms Minnesota Leather Pride 2018

The outgoing contestants gave some stirring and memorable step-aside speeches. Dylan, the outgoing Minnesota Leather Sir, talked about being visible. Pugsley, the outgoing Minnesota Leatherboy, talked about politics, both in the leather community and nationally.

And Mikayla, the outgoing Ms Minnesota Leather Pride, addressed bigotry within the leather community: "As your titleholder this year, I have felt loved and welcomed by most of you." After that surprising statement, she continued, "A new era is on the horizon for this community, and that era includes transgender people, people of color, women, young people, and many more minority groups… If you hold the opinion that because I am a woman, or because I am a transsexual woman, I don't belong on this stage or in this community, you are no longer in the majority. In this new era, you are in the minority—because the majority of the people standing in this room tonight want me here." She concluded by cautioning leather community elders uncomfortable with changes to the membership and makeup of the community, "Do not let bigotry be your legacy." Her speech drew a standing ovation.

Mikayla's speech was followed by a surprise covering ceremony in which Kurt Patton jumped up on stage, told Mikayla what a great job she had done during her title year, and concluded by handing her a leather Muir cap and saying, "You're gonna look damn sexy in this hat."

It was the end of the evening and time to announce the contest results: Christopher Vadner was the new Minnesota Leatherboy, and Evie was the new Ms Minnesota Leather Pride.

And then there was another surprise—and, unfortunately, not a pleasant one. When only one contestant is competing for a title, that contestant must score a minimum of 60 percent of available judging points, plus one more point, to be awarded the title. It was announced from the stage that the contestant for Minnesota Leather Sir did not score enough points to be awarded the title, so the Minnesota Leather Sir title sash will remain vacant for the year. ■

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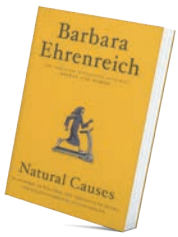
Go the Way Your Blood Beats: On Truth, Bisexuality and Desire

Michael Amherst
Repeater Books
$14.95

Part memoir, part fragmented essays, interleaved with notes to unnamed, un-gendered past partners, Amherst explores the fluidity of sexuality and sexual desire. Bisexuality is often misunderstood, dismissed, or seen as a way-station stopping at the "gay" terminus. Why must one's or others' sexuality be named, defined, or confined, Amherst asks. Throughout, the author quotes James Baldwin, J.M. Coetzee, Paul Goodman, Christopher Isherwood and Judith Butler, weaving his prose as fluidly as the subject he explores. The heart of the matter is the unknowability of desire while at the same time recognizing its universality. Desire is—and is not—to be regulated, controlled, or even understood by the desirer or the desired. Amherst's work has been published internationally in the Guardian, New Statesman, and the Spectator.



Natural Causes: An Epidemic of Wellness, the Certainty of Dying, and Killing Ourselves to Live Longer

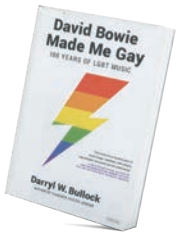
Barbara Ehrenreich
Twelve
$27

When to die? When to cease from pursuing every avenue, embracing every passing health fad in the attempt to live longer? Iconoclast Ehrenreich (Nickeled and Dimed, Global Women—more than a dozen in all) here takes on, as the subtitle states, our nationwide attempts to exert control over bodies that even at the cellular level aren't necessarily interested in our wishes. A PhD-holder in cellular immunology from Rockefeller University, Ehrenreich relates how the body's very protector cells will often promote tumor growth. While she lifts free weights and eats well, she advocates against slavish gym rites and the overuse of preventative screenings, cosmetic surgeries, and fad feast-or-fasting in the pursuit of a control over life that humans will never attain.
Much to consider here.

Sense of Wonder: My Life in Comic Fandom—The Whole Story

Bill Schelly
North Atlantic Books
$19.95

Pleasure and passion infuse Bill Schelly's recounting of comic fandom from the 1960s through his following 50 years in the field. In full disclosure, he relates also how fandom allowed him to assume his own identity as he came out of the closet. Back then, the DSM still listed homosexuality as a mental illness, but comic fans themselves were all a "little different" and the fan network provided community and companionship, freeing Schelly to pursue his avocations as comic historian. He's written lively, well-researched biographies of comic giants Harvey Kurtzman, Joe Kubert, Otto Binder, and John Stanley, as well as histories: The Golden Age of Comics, Giant Labors of Love, Weird Horrors & Daring Adventures, and numerous others. An entertaining and inspirational memoir on many levels.



David Bowie Made Me Gay: 100 Years of LGBT Music

Darryl W. Bullock
Overlook Press
$35

The 1920s saw the "Pansy" performers, copying similar bohemian entertainments in Paris and Berlin. "Gay," rather than "fairy" or "faggot," was just coming into vogue as a descriptor, and around Harlem, Times Square, and Greenwich Village, female impersonators gave birth to the Pansy craze. Men in dresses already entertained; Brigham Morris Young, son of the Brigham Young, author Bullock tells us, performed publicly as Madam Pattirini from 1885 to the early 1900s. This is just one chapter in this densely detailed and eminently entertaining book, as fascinating as rest of the volume. Bullock, author of Florence Foster Jenkins, uses the iconic Bowie to launch a look back over the past century to explore the historical GLBT influence on the music that permeates our society. ■

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TJB Homes Remodeling has been a family-owned endeavor since 1980. Photo by TJB Homes Remodeling

It's Gotta Be TJB

BY KASSIDY TARALA

Jason Budzynski of TJB Homes Remodeling shares his process of remodeling homes. A family-owned business, TJB Homes Remodeling was founded in 1980 by Jason Budzynski's father with the goal of transforming people's homes and lives. Today, 38 years later, TJB Homes Remodeling continues to thrive in the Budzynski family, with Jason as the head of the remodeling division.

Budzynski says his passion for construction and home remodeling started at a young age, which led him to following in his father's footsteps. By 14 years old, Budzynski was already capable of trimming out and finishing a house by himself.

"I have had my real estate license since 1993, and I have run our development company and developed over 100 lots in four developments," he says. "I've gone to the school of hard knocks. Born and raised in the construction industry, I'm self-taught on chief architect and drafting. I do 30-plus hours a year of continuing education."

Having followed the rest of his family and joining the TJB Homes Remodeling team, Budzynski now plays an active role in engaging with clients and helping them better understand the home remodeling process.

"I first meet the clients to discuss the scope of the project. From there, we discuss details and budget. Once we're on the same planet of rough number pricing, I work on sketch plans, then onto CAD (2D) drawing. From these plans, we add enough structural detail to provide a complete estimate. If needed, we do offer 3D renderings," Budzynski says.

According to Budzynski, TJB Homes Remodeling is known for its ability to specialize in essentially any projects or designs that their clients are looking for. From a project as simple as a window replacement to a more complex one like building a new basketball court for your backyard, TJB Homes Remodeling is willing to work with you on whatever it is your home needs.

"TJB is a custom home builder and full service remodeling contractor to handle all of your remodeling needs. Kitchens, baths, porches, additions, garages, sport courts, whole home, window replacements, complete demo and rebuild and more. We do not specialize in one thing, we specialize in it all," he says.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

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TJB offers remodeling for any area from kitchens and bathrooms to porches and garages. Photo by TJB Homes Remodeling

Want to revamp your indoor basketball court? TJB handles remodel jobs both simple and complex. Photo by TJB Homes Remodeling

TJB works alongside clients every step of the way, from the initial meeting to the final remodel reveal. Photo by TJB Homes Remodeling

If you're looking to escape the frequently frigid Minnesota climate, but you don't want to leave the sun behind, Budzynski says a popular home feature that many clients are interested in is a sunroom. With a sunroom, clients are able to create virtually any room they want, all while soaking in every last bit of heat this northern state has to offer. Whether you're looking to add a dinette, formal dining room, breakfast room or possibly just a lounge room for guests, a sunroom is a great addition to any home.

"A popular trend I'm really seeing is bringing our outdoors inside with 3-season sunrooms. Also, the use of blended materials is still really hot among clients," he says.

Budzynski says he works alongside his clients through every step of the home remodeling process, beginning with the first meeting and ending with the final remodel reveal. He says he prides himself in becoming very close with the clients he works with, and he even considers many of them friends by the end of the remodeling process.

Among the TJB Homes Remodeling clientele are several GLBT clients, says Budzynski. TJB Homes Remodeling can help create unique, inviting spaces for all of its clients, and they hope to continue growing their GLBT client base.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

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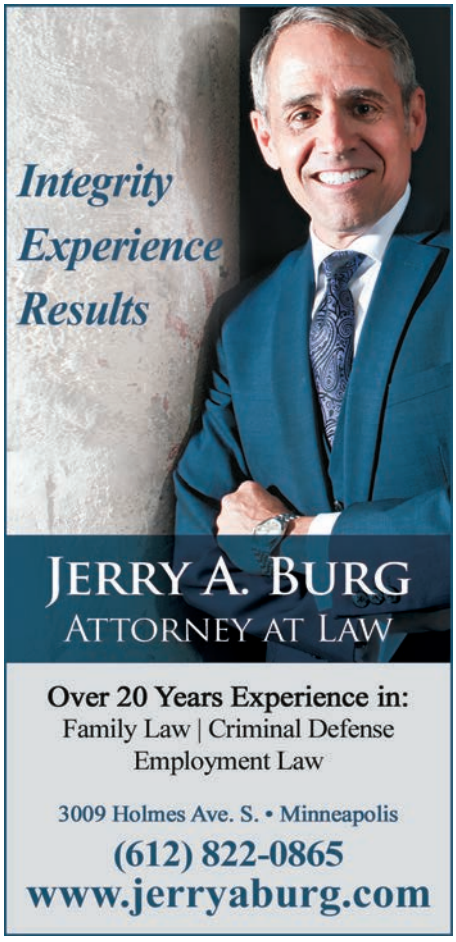
"We have a significant GLBT clientele. I completed four projects last year for the community out of the 28 total projects that I completed," Budzynski says.

Known for establishing welcoming, friendly relationships with clients, TJB Homes Remodeling isn't just founded and operated by family; it makes everyone feel like family. From outdoor projects like porches and sport courts to indoor projects like sunrooms and kitchens, TJB Homes Remodeling has seen it all, and they'll be there every step of the remodeling process to ensure that your home is filled with spaces that reflect your own individual personality and uniqueness.

With the slogan "We do remodeling ONE way, YOUR way," TJB Homes Remodeling definitely knows custom home design and construction. For more information about TJB Homes Remodeling and photos of the projects they've completed in the past, visit their website at www.tjbremodeling.com. ■

TJB Homes Remodeling can help you soak in the warmth with three-season sunrooms. Photo by TJB Homes Remodeling



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A Sofa FOR ANY STYLE

BY KASSIDY TARALA

Schneiderman's Furniture shares its furniture secrets and upcoming home trends.

If there's anyone who really knows you, it's your home. And if there's anyone who really knows homes, it's Schneiderman's Furniture. With locations in Lakeville, Plymouth, Roseville, Woodbury, Rochester and Duluth, Schneiderman's Furniture knows how to make a home out of any house, regardless of style, budget or location.

"We offer furniture, mattresses, area rugs, lighting and accessories for all areas of the home, including living room, family room, dining room, bedroom, home office and patio," says Schneiderman's Furniture Merchandise Manager Susan Strong.

In addition to its wide variety of furniture, Schneiderman's Furniture also offers a wide variety of prices to meet homeowners' budgets.

"We offer a broad range of prices from medium to medium-high price points. We focus on selecting items that offer style, quality and value for the price," Strong says.

Strong says some of the Schneiderman's Furniture team just returned from a buying trip to High Pointe, North Carolina, which is where they picked up on many upcoming home trends.

"Our favorites include the color trends that are developing to add energy and interest to neutral spaces. All colors in the blue spectrum are evident from soft blue-gray to deep indigo blue, and green hues are also starting to appear," she says.

Schneiderman's offers a wide array of furniture pieces that are stylish and comfortable while still remaining affordable. Photo courtesy of Schneiderman's Furniture

Additionally, Strong says natural and organic design elements are a big hit this year, including petrified wood table tops, stone mixed with iron, and large tree roots used as cocktail table bases. These elements bring naturally occurring materials into our living environments, which is becoming an increasingly popular trend among homeowners.

Schneiderman's Furniture brings the same elements from the home to outside of it, too. Strong says their selection of patio furniture is perfect for getting the family outside to enjoy the warm Minnesota weather while it lasts.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 40

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CALL TODAY FOR A COMPLIMENTARY IN-HOME DESIGN CONSULTATION!

Bradley is one of the many brands offered by Schneiderman's for dining sets. Photo courtesy of Schneiderman's Furniture

"We have a great selection of patio furniture this season for getting outside and enjoying the warm weather. Our most popular items include outdoor lounge seating and fire pits for gathering around into the evening," she says. "Our customers love our selection of Adirondack chairs and dining furniture from By the Yard, which is made in Minnesota from recycled milk jugs. We have a woven pod swing that is a definite favorite and perfect for just hanging around outdoors."

With a loyal customer base across Minnesota, Strong says Schneiderman's Furniture is also involved in the GLBT community by supporting all of its customers to embrace their individuality and express it in their home designs and decor.

Want to have a bonfire in style? Schneiderman's offers a sleek Cove Round Fire Table in their inventory. Photo courtesy of Schneiderman's Furniture

Schneiderman's offers a number of dining tables, including black pewter Naples table. Photo courtesy of Schneiderman's Furniture

"Being a Minnesota family-owned furniture retailer, we are proud to serve all of our customers, including the GLBT community, by providing a great selection of stylish and well-priced furniture for creating a personalized and comfortable home," Strong says. "We advertise in Lavender Magazine as a way to reach out to the GLBT community and invite them to shop with us and see our great selection of furniture."

If you're looking for a furniture store that specializes in quality, individuality and creativity, you'll want to stop by one of Schneiderman's Furniture locations around Minnesota. Anyone can make a house, but only Schneiderman's Furniture truly understands how to make a home.

Schneiderman's Furniture also has a blog where they share details necessary for any homeowner to make their house a home. From learning how to design your home like a professional interior designer, to understanding the best kinds of house plants and how to take care of them, to creating the perfect outdoor oasis based on your own personal style, the Schneiderman's Furniture blog is perfect for anyone who is a homeowner or just dreams of being one.

Check out their blog at blog.schneidermans.com. ■

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SENIOR LIVING | BY KASSIDY TARALA

Image courtesy of Training To Serve

Serving Our Seniors

Training to Serve teaches service providers how to meet the needs of GLBT seniors. Founded in 2009, Training to Serve formed to prepare service providers to properly serve GLBT seniors based on the community's needs. After nine years of service, TTS has trained over 10,000 providers in research-based GLBT aging sensitivity training. According to TTS Executive Director Rajean Moone, TTS has recently expanded their work to also included advocacy of GLBT seniors.

"TTS has provided official comments on topics such as the National Survey of Older Americans Act Participants and the recent elder abuse legislative work in Minnesota," Moone says. "Most recently, on April 25, TTS hosted an LGBT Aging Community Conversation to help understand advocacy needs of LGBT older adults and family caregivers."

Moone says TTS originally formed based on two local research studies. One study found that 9 out of 10 GLBT older adults did not know if they would receive safe services if their GLBT status was known. That number has changed to 8 out of 10, which is still a high percentage of GLBT seniors. The other study found that nearly all providers had never received training on GLBT aging. As a result, representatives from the University of Minnesota, Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging, and several advocacy groups came together to form TTS.

Because the life experiences of GLBT seniors vary from other seniors, it is important for TTS to properly train providers to better understand how to care for these clients.

"To some extent the [experiences and struggles of GLBT seniors] are similar and unique to other age groups. GLBT older adults have experienced a history of systemic oppression and discrimination. Until recently, everyday areas such as housing and jobs allowed legal discrimination against GLBT people. As a result, in order to thrive, many GLBT older adults had to stay deeply hidden in the closet. Even today, many GLBT older adults experience significant fear in accessing services from a provider for fear of being disrespected or worse, abused or neglected," Moone says.

According to Moone, GLBT seniors continue to face many disparities in comparison to non-GLBT seniors and even younger GLBT individuals.

"GLBT older adults have significant economic, social and health disparities compared to their non-GLBT peers including higher rates of poverty, diminished social networks, higher rates of drinking and smoking, higher rates of cancer and obesity, and less utilization of routine health care," he says.

People can support TTS' mission by encouraging their own health care providers to become trained on GLBT sensitivity for older adults. If they haven't already been trained, you can refer them to TTS.

"TTS is a nonprofit organization that provides training for professionals including continuing education hours that count towards professional licensure. We also invite the community to join us in celebrating 10,000 people trained at our annual dinner and auction on May 17th. If they cannot attend, we encourage the community to support TTS by offering an auction item or by donating to help us further our work. Details can be found on our website," Moone says.

GLBT seniors and their families can find organizations that want to be known as GLBT welcoming providers in the Twin Cities LGBT Aging Resource Guide, which can be found on TTS' website, www.trainingtoserve.org.

TTS publishes a new Twin Cities LGBT Aging Resource Guide every other year with updates. TTS has also trained the Senior LinkAge Line, Minnesota's free hotline for older adults and family members to learn about resources and help navigate complex health care systems. This hotline can be reached at 1-800-333-2433.

GLBT seniors have a different history and life experiences than other seniors, so why should their health care providers treat them the same? With the help of TTS, more providers will be able to understand and properly care for GLBT seniors. ■

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RIDE REVIEW | BY RANDY STERN | PHOTOS BY RANDY STERN

Trending Soon

For the past seven years, *Lavender Magazine* provided regular coverage of the automotive marketplace here in our readership area and beyond. We often feature the latest vehicles on sale, as well as a few tips on maintenance and a look at what the industry is doing for the GLBT community inside and out.

Rarely do we talk in broader terms about the automotive marketplace. We discuss specific trends in the context of a Ride Review, but never fully pull back to explain how those trends affect you. This piece is our opportunity to discuss certain market trends that make up today's new vehicle market. You may even see some of the vehicles mentioned on here in future Ride Review columns.

Let's catch up on what's happening in the automotive business, shall we?

2018 Honda Accord

2019 Toyota Avalon

THE SEDAN IS NOT DEAD!

Automotive analysts could be wrong. They already pointed to the dominance of the SUV and crossover as your next vehicle over the traditional midsized family sedan. If last year's sales were an indicator, the SUV continues to be the industry leader.

However, there are signs of life in the sedan segment. Last year, we saw the 2018 Toyota Camry at the auto show. Sales are up for what was the best-selling non-pickup truck in America for a decade-and-a-half. However, the new "sexy" Camry has company. Honda introduced the 2018 Accord—but delayed its entry into showrooms until later in the year. The result is a car that already took the North American Car of The Year, among many other accolades it already earned in these last few months.

The Accord is a fastback sedan with a trunk with the style of the current Civic lineup that still matches a lot of the dimensions of the previous generation. However, they have since eliminated the two-door coupe version and the V6 engine from its lineup. Instead, Honda offers the Accord with two turbocharged four-cylinder engines. The larger of the two has 252 horsepower, and a marked increase in torque over the V6 it replaces.

Another sedan that is not going away is the Toyota Avalon. While other manufacturers have been eliminating its largest sedans from their lineups, Toyota went ahead and reimagined their full-sized sedan for the next generation. The 2019 Avalon is sharper inside and out. It still offers unmatched luxury that invites discriminating buyers to its allure. The V6 is updated with a new eight-speed automatic transmission, along with an updated version of the Hybrid gas-electric driveline.

As much as the SUV still rules our marketplace, mid-sized and full-sized sedans are far from gone from your local dealership.

THERE'S STILL GOLD IN (PREMIUM) SUVS!

The compact SUV segment is still strong. We are still buying them by the truckloads. They are not just buying or leasing them from popular brands, such as Toyota, Chevrolet, and Volkswagen. Dealerships selling luxury brands are also seeing a lot of their smaller SUVs fly out of the showrooms. The Audi Q5, BMW X3, Acura RDX, and Lexus NX are among the most popular premium compact SUVs in our area.

In the next several months, there will be a few new entrants in this segment. The 2019 Infiniti QX50 offers a contemporary brand-focused design and a higher level of luxury and quality, the QX50 signals the introduction of its ground-breaking VC-Turbo engine. This is the first production engine using variable combus-

2019 Acura RDX

tion ratio technology that combines engine performance with overall operational efficiency. The QX50 is also designed to be driver-centric, while focusing on passenger comfort across its rows of seats.

Jaguar has introduced a smaller SUV to accompany the popular F-PACE. The 2018 E-PACE is designed to combine the latest of Jaguar's design and engineering in a smaller package. Powered by a turbocharged four-cylinder engine, the E-PACE is designed for efficiency, while delivering the traction management and control seen on the F-PACE and its corporate stablemates from Land Rover and Range Rover. Set to seat 4-5 people in expected Jaguar comfort, while delivering a driving experience the brand is renowned for.

Lastly, Acura is set to introduce an all-new RDX for 2019. It is an all-new design that combines both driver activity and passenger comfort. The new RDX marks the return of the turbocharged four-cylinder engine to its very popular model, returning improved fuel economy while maintaining performance Acura customers want on their daily drives.

While upscale customers have higher demands on their next vehicle purchase or lease, these three new entrants are set to make things more difficult in making an informed choice among these fine SUVs.

2019 Chevrolet Silverado

TRUCKS (STILL) GRAB ALL THE HEADLINES

Saving the best for last, we will be seeing three new pickup truck offerings. We know you have been waiting a long time for this trio of advanced, superbly designed, and work/play-ready machines.

Chevrolet will bring in a new generation 2019 Silverado. The truck is redesigned for lighter weight, while anchored by an improved rolled steel frame. The result is an average weight loss of 450 pounds compared to the outgoing model, while using a mix of various materials for the cab and the box. The big news is the addition of an in-line, six-cylinder Duramax

2019 Ram 1500

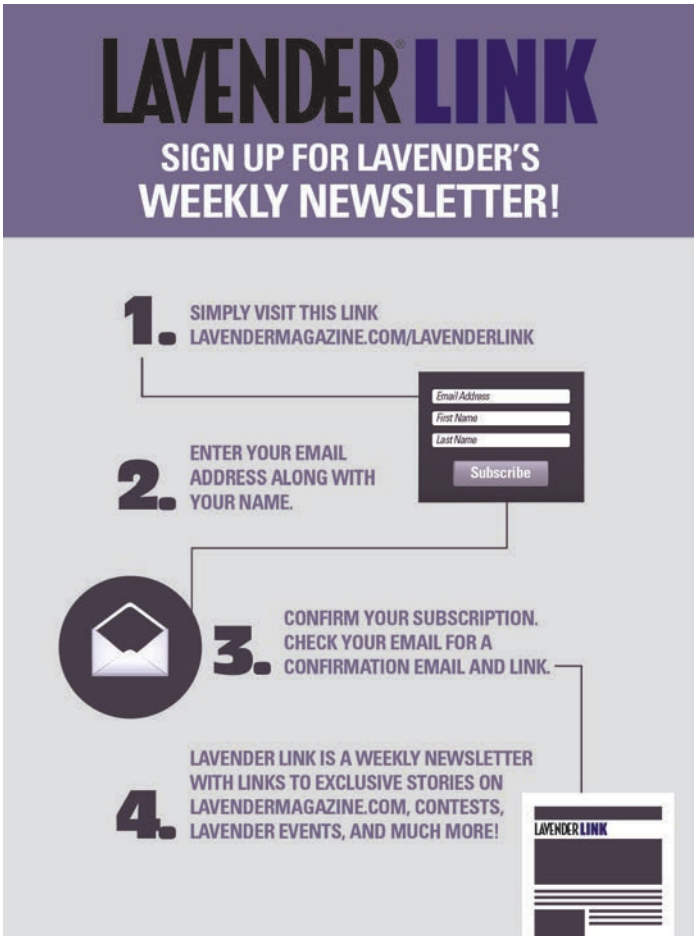
diesel engine to the lineup. This will match Ford's debut of a V6 PowerStroke diesel engine on their 2018 F-150. The Silverado is built to challenge the leader on its own terms, while maintaining many of the marks that help retain a loyal ownership following for Chevrolet.

Not to be outdone, Ram Trucks has delivered on an all-new 2019 Ram 1500 half-ton pickup. The truck is sleeker than before, while exhibiting an average weight loss of 225 pounds. This is thanks to a mix of construction materials—primarily higher-grade aluminum—on the cab and box sitting on top of a stronger steel frame. The big news is eTorque, which is a mild hybrid system available on both the Pentastar V6 and HEMI V8 gasoline engines. The best-in-class interior also took a major step forward, crowned by an available 12-inch touch screen that is customizable for many functions, including the fourth-generation UConnect infotainment system and climate controls.

2019 Ford Ranger

Finally, there is a new 2019 Ford Ranger. This current pickup is a popular seller in many countries around the world. For our purpose, we get one that offers an EcoBoost turbocharged four-cylinder engine as its initial power source with a ten-speed automatic transmission. Most other components are designed for North American use, including the integration of SYNC 3 and FordPass connected services. The good news is that it will be built in the United States at their Michigan truck plant and will be available in SuperCab and SuperCrew versions.

Pickup trucks are the strongest segment sold in our readership area, as well as nationwide. These three new entries will continue to provide years of service for its proud owners—personal or commercial customers alike! ■



SKIRTING THE ISSUES | BY ELLEN KRUG

Ellie Gets Braces!

Seven weeks ago, I got braces.

Yes, you read that right—Ellie Krug, 61 years old—has braces for the first time in her life.

I escaped the ordeal of braces as a teenager because my teeth were relatively straight and because my parents didn't want to buck my abhorrence to dentists, let alone orthodontists. Things went relatively well until my mid-50s when I noticed that a top front tooth (one of what my dentist termed "the social six") had started to migrate backwards. Simultaneously, a snaggletooth next to it, which had only slightly protruded, was beginning to move outward way more.

Oh crap, I thought. *This isn't good.*

With my speaking endeavors, I'm in front of the public a lot which also makes for me being frequently photographed. I began noticing a dark spot on my smile in photographs, meaning that my tooth alignment problem was there for all to see.

I first wondered if I could outlive my shifting teeth, but in the last couple of years, the shifting appeared to accelerate. Reluctantly, I investigated my options.

Initially, I thought I would go with Invisalign to keep my tooth alignment problem as private as possible. I found a dentist, underwent the initial exam, and then plucked down $2500 toward the clear tooth straighteners. Two things put that idea to an end; first, I needed to have a root canal which delayed getting the Invisalign.

Secondly, the dental assistant misgendered me to the office receptionist and when I gently corrected her, she didn't apologize. That, shall we say, left a sour taste in my misaligned-toothed-mouth.

I then made my way to an orthodontist, "Dr. Z", who's slightly older than me and a bit of a character. He's also darn smart about aging smiles; his response to using Invisalign was that while it worked, it was the equivalent of "traveling from Minneapolis to Saint Paul via Chicago." He promised to have my teeth straight in eight or nine months compared to the near two years for Invisalign.

So, I found myself sitting on a dental chair having braces put on my teeth. I was admonished about brushing after every meal and told that no longer could I have some of my favorite foods, at least in the way I was used to. Chomping down on Jimmy John's subs, McDonald's cheeseburgers and pepperoni pizza was out, as was eating Hershey's chocolate with almonds or my favorite snack, cashews. (Yes, I'm a horrible eater—that's probably a column for another day, assuming my diet doesn't kill me before I write it.)

Somehow, I've been able to navigate eating with braces. Clearly, some foods are just completely out—like popcorn—until I'm free of the plastic and metal that's now so obvious to anyone I encounter. ("Oh, you got braces," a client exclaimed upon meeting me for the first time.)

Still, even at this very early point, I can tell that things are progressing. The "social six" are getting better aligned and so far, I've avoided much of the tooth pain that Dr. Z warned I'd experience.

I even came across a woman older than me who has braces; I encountered her in a bathroom at an event center during a party. She was 63 years old and had another year to go before being braces-free. "Wow," I said. "You're way braver than me."

Regular readers will recall that I'm quite single, something I attribute to a combination of my age, gender, transgender status and general pickiness relative to dates. Now I can add braces to the list of reasons why I won't get a date—or even casual sex.

I lamented about this over lunch with Jean, a lesbian friend. Several years ago, back when I drank, Jean and I found ourselves making out over dessert after a Thanksgiving dinner at my condo. That was quite delightful for us, but I don't think the other dinner guests appreciated it very much.

"It looks like it won't be until 2019 when I'll be kissable again," I said to Jean, who laughed.

An hour later, as we hugged goodbye outside the restaurant, Jean said, "Come here," signaling for a kiss.

"No," I answered, worried about food being stuck in my teeth and how that would not be pleasant for her or me.

"Oh, don't be a baby," she replied. "Come on, let's give it a try."

I gave in and our lips locked for a deep kiss. I briefly pulled away and then went back in for a second, which Jean easily obliged.

As we both separated, Jean exclaimed with a smile and a laugh, "See Ellen, it still works!"

Ha.

Maybe I'll survive braces after all. ■

Ellen (Ellie) Krug is the author of Getting to Ellen: A Memoir about Love, Honesty and Gender Change *(2013). She speaks and trains on diversity and inclusion topics; visit www.elliekrug.com where you can also sign up for her newsletter, The Ripple. She welcomes your comments at ellenkrugwriter@gmail.com.*

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AIDS/HIV INFO & TREATMENT

Aliveness Project, The
Community Center for Individuals Living with HIV/AIDS – On-site Meals, Food Shelf and Supportive Services.
3808 Nicollet Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55409
(612) 824-LIFE (5433) www.aliveness.org

Minnesota AIDS Project AIDSLine
Statewide referral service for HIV information & resources including testing, care services, education around PrEP.
2577 Territorial Road
St. Paul, MN 55114
Metro: (612) 373-2437
Statewide: (800) 248-2437
mapaidsline@mnaidsproject.org
www.mnaidsproject.org

U of MN HIV Research Studies
Looking for HIV+ and HIV- individuals to participate in research studies.
420 Delaware St. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455
(612) 625-7472
hiv.umn.edu

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P.O. Box 10533
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
(651) 771-5662
www.secondchancerescue.org

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1619 Dayton Ave.
St. Paul, MN
(651) 645-0478
www.familytreeclinic.org

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800 Transfer Rd. #31
St. Paul, MN 55114
(651) 645-2948
www.namihelps.org

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Minneapolis, MN 55415
(612) 543-5555
www.reddoorservices.org

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www.mnhs.org

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www.tcgmc.org

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